

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the present application on July 19, 2005. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the information disclosed therein and return an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form with the next communication from the PTO.

Anticipation Rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hotta et al. (US2004/0063033) ("Hotta").

In response, Applicants note that Hotta is a reference against the present claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as of Hotta's U.S. filing date of September 16, 2003. However, Applicants have claimed priority to JPA No. 2003-047324, filed February 25, 2003, and thus Applicants submit herewith a sworn English language translation of JPA No. 2003-047324 to antedate Hotta and remove it from the prior art. In this regard, Applicants note that claims 1-21 are supported by the disclosure at, e.g., pages 1-4 in the sworn translation.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is not anticipated by Hotta, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

U.S. Application No. 10/784,879

Attorney Docket No. Q78018

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

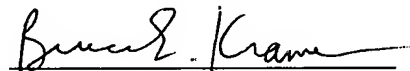
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Bruce E. Kramer
Registration No. 33,725

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